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PTO/SB/05 (08/00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No	270801-1011
First Inventor	Dr. H. Thomas Hight, III
Title	Apparatus and Method for Ventilating Endoscope Soaking Basins
Express Mail Label No	EL789318817US

P10
01/25/02
010/05/02**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP Chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

ADDRESS TO:Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231 APPLICANT REQUESTS EARLY PUBLICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.219 (additional fee)

1. Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Applicant claims small entity status
3. Specification [Total Pages 22]

- Descriptive title of the invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed Sponsored R&D
- Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

4. Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 8]

5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]

- a. Newly Executed (original or copy)

- b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR §1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)

 DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)

Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b)

6. Application Data Sheet See 37 CFR 1.76

Assignee
Name and Address
(if applicable)
Next Step Medical Technologies, LLC
3129 Medley Court
Kennesaw, Georgia 30152

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: 09/702,465.

Prior application information: Examiner Monzer R Chorbaji

Group / Art Unit: 1744

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only the entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. This incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number or Bar Code Label

24504

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)



Correspondence address below:

NAME	Robert E. Stachler II Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley, L.L.P.		
ADDRESS	100 Galleria Parkway Suite 1750		
CITY	Atlanta	STATE	Georgia
COUNTRY	U.S.A.	TELEPHONE	770-933-9500
ZIP CODE	30339-5948		
FAX	770-951-0933		

Name (Print/Type)	Robert E. Stachler II	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,934
Signature			Date 1/25/02

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

01/28/02

PTO/SB/17 (10-01) Approved for use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2002

Patent fees are subject to annual revision

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT

(\$ 466.00/40.00)

Complete If Known

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	January 25, 2002
First Named Inventor	Dr. H. Thomas Hight, III
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Group / Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket No.	270801-1011

METHOD OF PAYMENT

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

1. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to the following Deposit Account.

Deposit Account Number	20-0778
Deposit Account Name	Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer Risley

Charge any additional fee required and requested to credit any overpayment

Charge all indicated fees and any additional fee required or credit any overpayment. Charge any additional fee required and requested to credit any overpayment

Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	
116	400	216	200	Extension of time within second month	
117	920	217	460	Extension of time within third month	
118	1,440	218	720	Extension of time within fourth month	
128	1,960	228	980	Extension of time within fifth month	
119	320	219	160	Notice of Appeal	
120	320	220	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	280	221	140	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,280	241	640	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,280	242	640	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	460	243	230	Design issue fee	
144	620	244	310	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (time number of properties)	40
146	740	246	370	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
149	740	249	370	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
179	740	279	370	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	740	201	370	Utility filing fee	\$370
106	330	206	165	Design filing fee	\$
107	510	207	255	Plant filing fee	\$
108	740	208	370	Reissue filing fee	\$
114	160	214	80	Provisional filing fee	\$
SUBTOTAL (1)					(\$370)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

		Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	26	-20**=	6	x 9.00 = 54
Independent Claims	4	-3** =	1	x 42.00 = 42
Multiple Dependent				140.00 = 0

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	84	202	42	Independent Claims in excess of 3
104	280	204	140	Multiple dependent claims in excess of 3
109	84	209	42	**Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	**Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2)				(\$96)

** or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) 40

Complete (if applicable)

SUBMITTED BY

Typed or Printed Name

Robert E. Stachler II

Registration No 36,934
(Attorney/Agent)

Telephone Number

770-933-9500

Signature

Date

1/25/02

Deposit Account User ID

24504

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: **Dr. H. Thomas Hight III**For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENTILATING ENDOSCOPE SOAKING
BASINS****CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX: Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

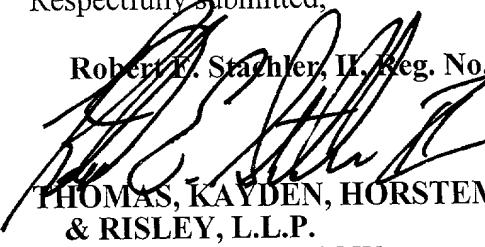
Enclosed for filing in the above case are the following documents:

Return Postcard
Utility Patent Application Transmittal Page
Fee Transmittal Page
Patent Application Consisting Of:
16 Pages of Specification
5 Pages of Claims (Claims 1-26)
1 Page of Abstract
8 Pages of Formal Drawings (Figs. 1-7)
Declaration for Patent Application
Assignment of the Invention
Recordation Form Cover Sheet
Check in the amount of \$40.00 for assignment filing fee
Check in the amount of \$466.00 for application filing fee

Further, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 20-0778 for any additional fees required. The Commissioner is requested to credit any excess fee paid to Deposit Account No. 20-0778

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Stachler, II, Reg. No. 36,934

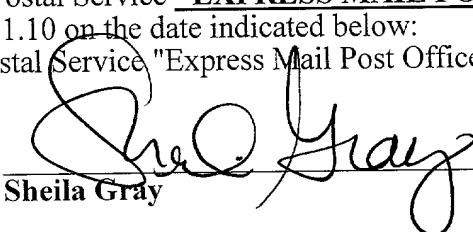


THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.
100 Galleria Parkway, N.W.
Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948

Our Docket No: **270801-1011**

I hereby certify that all correspondences listed above are being deposited for delivery to the above addressee, with the United States Postal Service "**EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE**" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated below:

The envelope has been given U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Package # **EL789318817US**.

Date: **01-25-02**

Sheila Gray